



Neighbors Building Brightmoor

Neighbors Building Brightmoor seeks to mobilize our neighbors to work together to equip families and individuals to improve the quality of life in our neighborhood.

March 2016

First Brightmoor tax foreclosure workshop

A great success

Hundreds of Brightmoor residents are threatened to lose their home over tax foreclosure this year. Wayne County posted over 836 homes in Brightmoor this year, of which an estimated 587 are occupied homes. With the help of the Brightmoor Alliance, Neighbors Building Brightmoor and other

Brightmoor residents, we went door-to-door to over 700 homes in our community to spread the word about the tax foreclosure workshop we organized at St. Christine's office. During this workshop we were able to help 33 people, who all left very satisfied.



Were you unable to make it last month? Do you know a neighbor who might benefit?

You have another chance to attend a workshop, on **Saturday March 5, 10AM-1PM, at Detroit Community High School, 12675 Burt Road, Detroit**

Legal counselors of UCHC (United Community Housing Coalition) will sit down with you one-on-one, to look at your situation together, answer all your questions, give legal advice and help you fill out paper work.



United Community Housing Coalition

Their free help can benefit.

NBB 2015 MEETING SCHEDULE

Always on the first Thursday of the month!

6.30 pm Potluck, 7 –8.30 pm Meeting

At St. Christine's Soup Kitchen on the corner of Dacosta and Fenkell.

Mar 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, Aug 4, Sept. 1, Oct. 6

CALENDAR

NBB mtg. and potluck

March 3 from 6.30-8.30 pm at St. Christine's

Community Kitchen Mtg

March 14, from 6:30-8:30, 22739 Fenkell (potluck first)

Brightmoor Freestore

Saturdays 10am-2pm Aldersgate UMC

Brightmoor Alliance Mtg.

March 17, 5:30 dinner. 6-7:30pm meeting

Special Thanks:

St. Christine's for allowing us to use their space
Compassion Funeral Home \$20

Brightmoor Liquor \$20

Speedy's Gas Station \$20

Inter-City Auto \$20
Bo-Jack Carwash \$20

Scotty's Fish & Chips \$20

Phat Headz Barber-shop \$10

Metro PCS \$20

All Wet Laundry \$10
Regal Spirits \$20

Checkers Food and Liquor \$30

Grandy's Coney Island \$20

Raynita James \$20

Pueblo Tile \$10

BP Gas Station \$20

Brightmoor Farmers and Artisans Market

We will be back for our second season beginning Friday June 3rd at 4pm.

We will be offering locally-grown produce, meat, and eggs, as well as baked goods and other prepared foods and hand-made goods. Located at the Brightmoor Artisans Community Kitchen (Fenkell & West Parkway) every Friday this summer from 4 to 7. EBT is accepted.

If you have something you would like to sell at the market or you'd like to improve our programming with a performance or workshop, please contact our market manager Sophie at 937-307-7976.



Meet your Neighbor – Shawndell Peregood

Born in the Delray area of Detroit, Shawndell Peregood moved with her family to Brightmoor when she was very young – first to Kentwood St. and then, in 1980 when she was 6 years-old, to Lamphere St., across from Hubert Elementary. She recalls that her family was the only African American family on the block at that time. She attended grade school at Hubert, St. Gemma's, and St. Christine's, and went to high school at Detroit Southwestern. Since then, she has been in and out of Detroit, returning to Lamphere St. two years ago where she brought the house she currently lives in – almost across the street from her 1980 house.

From the perspective of a neighbor who has left and returned to Brightmoor, Shawndell notices both the good and the not so good of her neighborhood. On the negative side, she finds that home ownership has declined, many schools have closed, properties have been abandoned, and addiction has taken its toll. But on the plus side, due to the support of neighbors she has never felt unsafe, and she sees firsthand the growth and improvement, including a renewed and more vibrant Fenkell Ave.

Shawndell works as a painting sub-contractor with Z Painting in Farmington, while at the same time pursuing her Associate Degree in Business at Schoolcraft College. A real family and neighbor oriented person, she is a member of and volunteers at Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church on Burt at Fenkell. She hopes to do even more volunteering when she completes her degree. Her hope is that Brightmoor will continue to progress toward becoming a thriving neighborhood – a model for other Detroit neighborhoods, and a place where neighbors of diverse backgrounds, races, and faiths help each other no matter what.

(Note: This is the first in a series of articles in which we will profile neighbors who have had a long and rich history in our community but whose stories too often go untold. Their stories, every bit as much as gardens, youth programs, farmers markets, blight removal, volunteer activities, meetings and community kitchens, are the threads that make up the rich tapestry of our neighborhood.)

Update from the Inclusion Committee

The inclusion committee is the newest committee of NBB, and started last summer! At the time, some of its members talked to long-time residents of our community to begin to understand how NBB is perceived in the neighborhood. While NBB has accomplished much that is appreciated and celebrated, some also perceive it as a predominantly white-run organization, with a focus on urban agriculture.

The Inclusion Committee wants to help NBB to become more aware of community perceptions, and take action to be as inclusive an organization as possible. We understand inclusion in its broadest sense, such as race, age, religion, socio-economic divides, farmers/non-farmers, gender, immigration status etc....



During our meetings, we discuss action steps to become more inclusive, and also reserve time to learn together about issues as racism and sexism.

We will start our next meeting on **March 16th, 7PM**, with a discussion of Peggy McIntosh 2-page piece called “*White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack*” (contact Bill Hickey or Louella Pizzuti for a copy). In the true spirit of the committee, everyone is welcome to join! Our monthly meetings are held at **Roz’ teahouse every third Wednesday of the month at 7PM.**

Support those who support NBB

Bo-Jack Car Wash, on the corner of Fenkell and Lamphere, is one of the original supporters of Neighbors Building Brightmoor. When asked to say something about his business, owner Bo-Jack said, “ask my customers.” So I did. To a person they said that they come from all over the city for a great car wash. The service is excellent and the prices are reasonable – only \$12 for a top-notch hand car wash. You can trust your car to Bo and to his efficient and talented crew. Thanks, Bo, for all you give to the neighborhood!



(Please note: in a prior article about Grandy’s Coney Island, we forgot to mention that the owner’s (Gus) family has had many members who have served in the U.S. Marine Corps. Thanks to Gus’s family for its patriotic service.)

Cooking Matters at the Store®

Practice skills like:

- Buying fruits and vegetables on a budget
- Comparing unit prices
- Reading food labels
- Identifying whole grains
- Sticking to your budget!



Participants receive \$10worth of healthy groceries, handouts, recipes, and a shopping bag.

Date: March 15th, 2016 Time: 6-8pm Meijer @Grand River and McNichols



To ensure your spot on the tour

RSVP:

Trena Ross 313-467-3891

Brittney Rooney 651-815-2730

Plan to meet in the produce section of the store

Join the Garden Resource Program

Seeds, transplants and a whole lot more are available if you join! Gardens of all shapes and sizes are connected through the GRP to a growing network of gardeners, farmers, food entrepreneurs, and advocates working to promote a thriving local food system.

Find the GRP application at www.detroitagriculture.net or by calling (313) 757-2635 - we hope you'll join us in working towards a food sovereign city!



Grayfield

Lisa Rivera 773-332-5031

Beaverland

Nicky Marcot 590-1965

Bramell

Tim Miller 687-2806

Gwen Shivers 533-9455

Chatham

Jill Nienhuis 898-1769

Eaton

Jody Scarlett 537-7848

Lamphere

Bill Hickey 472-5295

Jeremy Kenward 701-2063

Jackie Adams 286-6003

Dacosta

Sherry Courtney 537-5558

Rockdale

Ilka Lapeer 532-9272

Outer Drive

Bernice Walker 926-1975

Dolphin

Sophie Stockum 937 307 7976

Dolphin North

Cindy Dorman 405 2457

Iliad

Andrew Wilson 587-3299

Braille North

Willie Mae Jackson 808-1652

Acacia

Karen K. Plants 248-895-9825

Kentfield

Jacklyn Reese 535-2791

Patton

Dawn Wilson 255- 3637

Bentler

Trena Ross 467-3891

We are looking for a contact person for Lyndon, as well as someone to pass out newsletters. Please contact Nicky Marcot if you are interested.

BLOCK CONTACTS →